

# End of Half Term Newsletter



Swiss  
Cottage  
School  
Development &  
Research Centre

Inclusive  
Nurturing  
Inspiring

Monday 16th December 2024

We are so proud of the progress and personal development of your children across this exciting Autumn Term. The Highlights Newsletter is shining a light on our Artists in Residence, Performances from Theatre Groups, the Local Community Curriculum in action, and our role with external organisations. Wishing all of our families a safe and enjoyable festive period!

**Winter Festival** Classes across the school took part in the annual immersive multi-sensory 'Winter Festival' to explore festivities and seasons through music, dance, and performances. The school's festive tree shines a light on the talents of our pupils!



## Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

Pupils have been working with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment on a 'Musical Connections' project. They are expanding the project to include the themes of "spring time" and "growing", exploring how fruit and vegetables grow to create pieces of music on this theme. Alongside orchestra members playing their original 18<sup>th</sup> century instruments, our learners have been playing percussion instruments, singing, and writing and performing songs.



## Artists in Residence: Face Front Theatre

Upper School pupils from the Pearl and Sapphire pathways enjoyed a fantastic performance from the Face Front Theatre Company. Face Front are a group of actors with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities who tour the country with their shows about life as a young person with additional needs.

Pupils attended an interactive performance of "It's My Move" which follows three young people and their journeys leaving school, to college and into the world of work. Pupils related with the challenges of the characters and found it inspiring. In the afternoon pupils with a particular interest in pursuing theatre or the performing arts as a career option had a 90 minute focused workshop exploring more about the industry and getting advice from other young people who had taken that route.





## The Musicians' Company

Our collaboration with The Musicians' Company continued this term, and the young musicians went beyond their theme-based sessions. They encouraged pupils to "conduct" the musicians. Josh and Lily responded on their instruments (violin and tuba) to sounds and movements that the pupils made, creating a personalised improvisation that each learner had a hand in making. The project culminated in two sessions with a festive theme in which the musicians told engaging seasonal stories, accompanied by lively music!



## Stomp Theatre Group—in Residence!

We had the pleasure of welcoming back one of the Founders of Stomp Carl over the course of two days in November. Pupils and staff loved every minute of his session and actively participated in making music using body parts as instruments and were learning how to use everyday objects to create rhythm and music. We observed many magical moments of engagement and interactions.

Carl said: 'Thank you so much for inviting me back to your school. I found the connections I made in engaging your students and the feedback from your staff deeply moving.'



## Camden Arts Centre

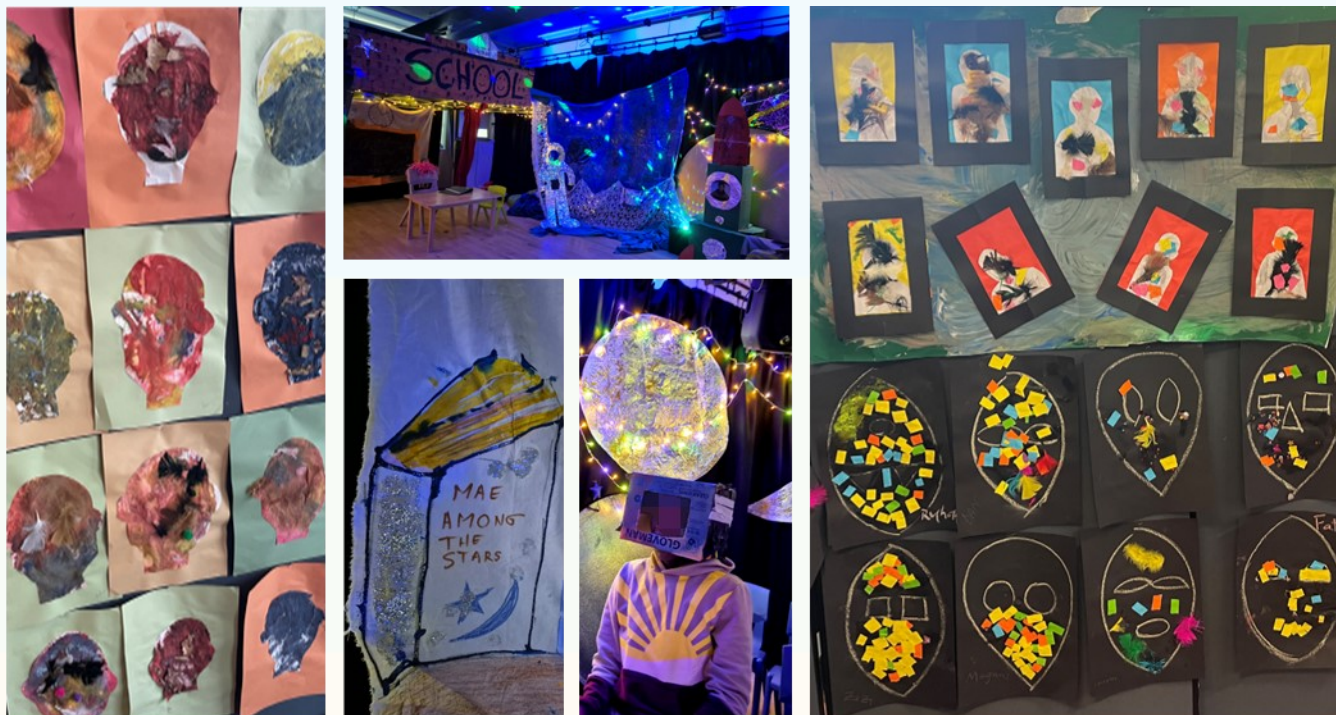
Chris Packham class has completed workshops for a year-long project that will culminate in an exhibition at the Camden Arts Centre. They have enjoyed working with the Arts Specialists and different mediums. The pupils are experimenting with techniques and materials during the workshops, and we are excited to see where this creative journey takes them.





## Black History Month

This year, we held an extended Black History Season with a variety of exciting events. One of the highlights was an immersive, sensory story based on Mae Jemison, the first Black female astronaut. The audience had the opportunity to actively participate, helping Mae follow her dream through the story 'Mae Among the Stars.' The entire school also contributed to a stunning exhibition in the art room, inspired by the works of various artists that students have been looking at. Post-16 Pupils were also attended a lithography workshop organised by the Anti-Apartheid Archive which they thoroughly enjoyed.



## Community Learning at our Farm

Pupils in Upper School have been enjoying weekly visits to the farm. They have been learning about the main principles and practices of animal care and welfare. This includes learning how to work safely around animals, care for them and feed them. They have also been visiting the Heath weekly where they have been learning about the tasks required to maintain the park. These include basic gardening skills, litter picking, recycling and maintenance of areas.



## Young Vic Theatre Company

Malala and the Post-16 students have also started working with the Young Vic Theatre on a project focused on learning and using employability skills. They spent an afternoon working with professionals and reports were very positive.



## UNICEF Rights Respecting School: Silver Award

Swiss Cottage School has met the standard for UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award at Silver: Rights Aware. During the accreditation visit, pupils discussed a range of topics and were passionate about how their school protects their rights.



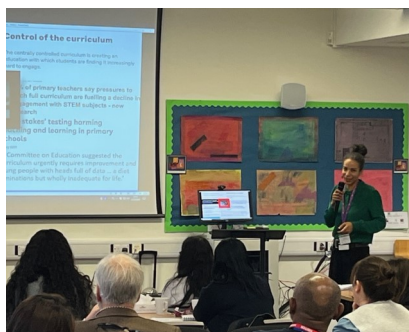
## Camden Healthy Schools Award

Swiss Cottage School was also assessed for the Healthy Schools and Healthy Lifestyles within our curriculum. We are excited to share we are accredited for London Healthy School Awards as well.

## Evidence For Learning National Conference

We were privileged to host two national conferences for Evidence for Learning. 180 school leaders were at the school across the two day event.

Vice Principal Syra launched the SEN in Mainstream event through a keynote address on aspiration and ambition for inclusion.



## House of Commons

Vice Principal Andria attended the launch of the Arts Council England initiative for creative arts in education at the House of Commons.

Andria met with a range of leaders for cultural organisations to highlight the talents of our pupils through our creative curriculum.

## World School Summit

Principal Vijita presented at the World Schools Summit as a member of the International Leadership Council.

The themes of Unlocking the Hidden Curriculum and Bold Leadership for system change were at the heart of debates and discussions towards a more inclusive society.

## Term Dates

### Spring Term 2025

**Monday 6th January to Friday 4th April 2025**

Monday 6th January: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

**Half-term:** Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2025

**Spring Holiday:** Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April 2025 (Easter weekend 18th - 21st April)

### Summer Term 2025

**Tuesday 22nd April to Tuesday 22nd July 2025**

Monday 5th May: **May Day Bank Holiday - no school for pupils**

**Half-term:** Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2025

Monday 30th June: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Tuesday 22nd July 2024: **Last day for pupils**

**Wishing all of our families a fun, enjoyable, and safe Winter Holiday, and a very Happy New Year.**

**The first day back for pupils is Tuesday, 7th January 2025!**